

1 - 12. (canceled)

13. (new) A method for guiding an operator of an automatic external defibrillator in pad placement on a subject comprising:

prompting an operator to conduct a pad placement action;  
sensing that the operator has conducted the prompted action; and

following placement of the pads on the subject, receiving an ECG signal from the subject.

14. (new) The method according to claim 13, wherein prompting an operator further comprises prompting the operator to remove a cover from the pads; and

wherein sensing further comprises sensing that the pads are being handled.

15. (new) The method according to claim 14, wherein prompting an operator further comprises prompting the operator to pull a handle and remove a cover.

16. (new) The method according to claim 13, wherein prompting an operator further comprises prompting the operator to remove a pad from a liner.

17. (new) The method according to claim 16, wherein sensing further comprises sensing the contact state of the pads.

18. (new) The method according to claim 16, wherein sensing further comprises sensing whether the pads are in electrical contact with one another.

19. (new) The method according to claim 16, wherein sensing further comprises sensing an impedance signal with the pads.

20. (new) The method according to claim 13, wherein prompting an operator further comprises prompting the operator to look at the pictures on the pads.

21. (new) The method according to claim 20, wherein prompting an operator further comprises prompting the operator to place the pads as shown by the icons on the pads; and  
wherein sensing further comprises sensing that the pads have been placed on the subject.

22. (new) The method according to claim 21, wherein sensing further comprises sensing an impedance signal with the pads.

23. (new) The method according to claim 13, further comprising, following sensing, issuing a pad correction prompt to correct an error state.

24. (new) The method according to claim 23, wherein the error state further comprises one of erratic pad contact, pads touching each other, failure to remove a liner, or pad placed on clothing.

25. (new) The method according to claim 24, wherein the pad correction prompt comprises one of the following instructions: an instruction to firmly press the pads to bare skin, an instruction to ensure that the liner has been removed, an instruction to place the pad in accordance with the pad placement picture, or an instruction that the pads must not touch each other or clothing.

26. (new) The method according to claim 13, further comprising repeating a prompt until the defibrillator senses that the operator has conducted the prompted action.